

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PHNOM 17412 01 OF 02 310640Z

16

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 IO-10

CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 AID-05 EB-07 TRSE-00

AGR-05 IGA-01 COME-00 /111 W
----- 022939

P R 310530Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8759

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL UDORN

USIA WASHDC

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

CGFMFPAC

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PHNOM 17412 01 OF 02 310640Z

CGUSARSUPTHAI

CINCPAC
CINCPACAF
CINCPACFLT
CINCUSARPAC
CNO
COMNAVINTCOM
COMSEVENTHFLT
COMUSMACTHAI
COMUSSAG
CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR
DIA WASHDC
III MAF
7/13 AF

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 17412

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, MOPS, ECON, CB
SUBJ: KHMER REPORT -- DECEMBER 31, 1974

GENERAL

1. THE SITUATION IN PHNOM PENH AND THROUGHOUT CAMBODIA WAS CALM ON ALL FRONTS AS THE YEAR DREW TO A CLOSE. PRESIDENT LON NOL WAS VACATIONING IN THE PORT CITY OF KOMPONG SOM AND CONDUCTING DISCUSSIONS WITH HIS ADVISORS ON THE COMPOSITION OF A NEW CABINET, TO BE HEADED BY THE CURRENT PRIME MINISTER LONG BORET. KC PROPAGANDA CRITICIZED THESE EFFORTS, SAYING THAT THE HIGH RANKING MEMBERS OF THE LON NOL "CLIQUE" WILL BE HANGED AND THAT ANY NEW GOVERNMENT, NO MATTER WHAT ITS FORM, WILL BE REJECTED BY THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE. MILITARILY, THERE WAS LITTLE ENEMY ACTIVITY AND FANK MADE GOOD PROGRESS IN THE BASSAC OPERATION SOUTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH, WHERE THERE HAS BEEN HEAVY FIGHTING OVER THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS. THERE WAS ALSO GOOD ECONOMIC NEWS AS PRICES IN PHNOM PENH DECREASED SLIGHTLY.

POLITICAL (INTERNAL)

2. PRESIDENT LON NOL ARRIVED IN THE PORT CITY OF KOMPONG
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PHNOM 17412 01 OF 02 310640Z

SOM DECEMBER 24 FOR A BRIEF VACATION AND IS EXPECTED BACK IN PHNOM PENH LATER THIS WEEK. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED ON THE TRIP BY THE PRIME MINISTER (WHO IS NOW BACK IN PHNOM PENH) AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT, AS WELL AS SOME OF HIS CLOSE PALACE ADVISORS, ALL OF WHOM HAVE BEEN PARTICIPATING IN WORK SESSIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT. THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE COMMENT IN THE PRESS ABOUT WHAT IS BEING DISCUSSED IN THESE MEETINGS, WITH MOST SPECULATION CENTERING AROUND THE COMPOSITION OF THE

NEW CABINET EXPECTED TO BE FORMED SHORTLY. COMMENT:
IT IS NOT YET KNOWN WHAT THE GENERAL COMPOSITION OF THE
NEW CABINET WILL BE. PRIME MINISTER LONG BORET'S ATTEMPTS
TO "BROADEN" HIS GOVERNMENT THROUGH PARTICIPATION OF
REPRESENTATIVES OF DIFFERENT POLITICAL GROUPINGS HAVE NOT
BEEN SUCCESSFUL, AND HE HAS STATED TO US AND IN A PRESS
INTERVIEW THAT HE NOW INTENDS TO EMPHASIZE CHANGES IN
POLICY RATHER THAN PERSONNEL IN THE NEW CABINET.

3. THE KHMER PRESS HAS GIVEN CONSIDERABLE COVERAGE TO
THE EXECUTION BY THE GKR DECEMBER 26 OF TEN PERSONS, NINE
OF WHOM WERE CONVICTED AS MEMBERS OF A BAND OF ARMED
ROBBERS, AND THE TENTH AS AN ENEMY AGENT INVOLVED IN A
TERRORIST ATTACK SOME TIME AGO AGAINST THE TEHEN DEFENSE
MINISTER, THAPPANA NGINN. COMMENT: THE EXECUTIONS HAVE
BEEN RECEIVED FAVORABLE, SINCE MANY KHMER BELIEVE THE GKR
IS FAR TOO LENIENT IN PUNISHING CRIMINALS AND SABOTEURS.
SEVERAL PAPERS HAVE GONE A STEP FURTHER IN URGING THE EXE-
CUTION, AS WELL, OF THOSE WHO BY THEIR SPECULATION, HOARD-
ING AND CORRUPTION ARE SABOTAGING THE ECONOMY.

POLITICAL (EXTERNAL)

4. FOREIGN MINISTER KEUKY LIM RETURNED TO PHNOM PENH ON
DECEMBER 28 FROM NEW YORK, WHERE HE HEADED THE GKR DELEGA-
TION TO THE 29TH UNGA SESSION. HE WAS WELCOMED BY THE
PRIME MINISTER, OTHER CABINET MEMBERS AND THE DIPLOMATIC
CORPS.

5. PRESIDENT LON NOL HAS GIVEN AGREEMENT TO THE APPOINT-
MENT OF ISHAK DJUARSA AS INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE
KHMER REPUBLIC. AMBASSADOR DJUARSA, WHO WILL BE RESIDENT
IN PHNOM PENH, REPLACES HARTO REKSO DHARSONO.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 PHNOM 17412 01 OF 02 310640Z

GRUNK/FUNK

6. IN-COUNTRY KC PROPAGANDA THIS WEEK SHARPLY CRITICIZED
THE CURRENT GKR EFFORTS TO RESHUFFLE THE CABINET. ALLEG-
ING THAT THE "TRAITOROUS CLIQUE FACES RUIN" BECAUSE OF A
"ONE-HALF" REDUCTION IN U.S. ASSISTANCE, FUNK RADIO
CHARGED THAT THE U.S. AS A LAST RESORT IS MASTERMINDING
EFFORTS AT A "COALITION OR NATIONAL CONCORD PUPPET GOVERN-
MENT" IN ORDER TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE UN RESOLUTION AND
THE GKR JULY 9 NEGOTIATIONS OFFER. THE BROADCAST IN
RESPONSE REITERATED THE OTHER SIDE'S BY NOW WELL KNOWN
FORMULA TO CONTINUE THE STRUGGLE "WITHOUT COMPROMISE, RE-
TREAT OR NEGOTIATION" AND PROMISED THAT LON NOL AND
COMPANY WILL BE HANGED. IT REJECTED THE LON NOL GOVERN-

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PHNOM 17412 02 OF 02 310711Z

16

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 IO-10

CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 AID-05 EB-07 TRSE-00

AGR-05 IGA-01 COME-00 /111 W
----- 023115

P R 310530Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8760

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL UDORN

USIA WASHDC

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

CGFMFPAC

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PHNOM 17412 02 OF 02 310711Z

CGUSARSUPTHAI
CINCPAC
CINCPACAF
CINCPACFLT
CINCUSARPAC
CNO
COMNAVINTCOM
COMSEVENTHFLT
COMUSMACTHAI
COMUSSAG
CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR
DIA WASHDC
III MAF
7/13 AF

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 17412

MENT "IN WHATEVER FORM IT MAY BE PRESENTED". IN ANOTHER BROADCAST THE OTHER SIDE, STILL SMARTING FROM THE UN DECISION ON THE KHMER QUESTION, SNIPED THAT THE OVERALL U.S. POSITION IN THE UN IS DECLINING, AND ALLEGED THAT AMBASSADOR SCALI'S "THREAT" WAS "USELESS".

ECONOMIC

7. DURING THE WEEK SOME 2,300 VILLAGERS MOVED VOLUNTARILY OUT OF KC CONTROLLED TERRITORY AND SETTLED ALONG ROUTE 6 AND IN THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF SIEM REAP. VOLUNTARY AGENCIES ARE PRESENTLY CARING FOR THEIR IMMEDIATE REQUIREMENTS. THE MINISTRY OF REFUGEES HAS ALSO REPORTED THAT SOME 300 - 500 VILLAGERS RECENTLY MOVED INTO KOMPONG CHAM FROM KC-HELD AREAS.

8. PRICES IN PHNOM PENH RETAIL MARKETS REFLECTED A SEASONAL DONWARD TREND OVER THE WEEK. DECREASES WERE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PHNOM 17412 02 OF 02 310711Z

REGISTERED FOR FRESH WATER AND OCEAN FISH, BEEF, AND

CHICKEN. VEGETABLES WERE MIXED BUT THE OVERALL PRICE TREND WAS DOWNWARD. PRICES FOR U.S. AND BATTAMBANG RICE WERE STABLE. SALT AND SUGAR INCREASED 4 PERCENT AND 6 PERCENT RESPECTIVELY, WHILE ALL OTHER LOCAL PRODUCTS REMAINED STABLE OR DECLINED BY 2 TO 3 PERCENT. ON THE WHOLE, PRICES FOR ALL PRODUCTS DROPPED BY ABOUT 2 PERCENT DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD. THE FREE MARKET EXCHANGE RATE ROSE 3 PERCENT FROM 1,720 TO 1,780 RIELS PER DOLLAR. THE PRICE OF GOLD ALSO INCREASED DURING THE WEEK FROM \$171.1 TO \$187.3 PER OUNCE.

9. AS OF DECEMBER 28, RICE STOCKS IN PHNOM PENH TOTALLED 35,011 M/T, OR APPROXIMATELY A 43-DAY SUPPLY AT THE 750 M/T AVERAGE DAILY DISTRIBUTION RATE. THIS STOCK INCLUDED THE 10,075 M/T BROUGHT BY A SPECIAL MEKONG RICE CONVOY WHICH DOCKED AT PHNOM PENH ON THE 28TH OF DECEMBER. ON THE 29TH, 556 M/T OF RICE ARRIVED AT KOMPONG SOM FROM SAIGON, BRINGING TOTAL STOCKS ON HAND IN THAT CITY TO 4,250 M/T OR ABOUT A TWO-MONTH SUPPLY FOR THE MARITIME PROVINCES.

MILITARY

10. FANK TOOK THE INITIATIVE THIS WEEK IN THE ONGOING BASSAC OPERATION (SEE PREVIOUS KHMER REPORTS). FRIENDLY FORCES MOUNTED ATTACKS ALONG THE EAST BANK OF THE RIVER WHICH FACILITATED THE ESTABLISHING OF A DEFENSIVE LINE BETWEEN ROUTE 1 AND THE BASSAC. LATER IN THE WEEK, ON THE WEST BANK, FOUR M-113 SQUADRONS CONDUCTED A SWEEP, ADVANCING SIX KILOMETERS TO THE RIVER BANK AND KILLING OVER 30 KC SOLDIERS.

11. OVER THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS FANK TROOPS HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTING TO RETAKE THREE GOVERNMENT POSITIONS LOST SOUTH OF NEAK LUONG ON THE MEKONG. THIS WEEK FANK SUCCEEDED IN THIS EFFORT, KILLING 65 ENEMY SOLDIERS AND CAPTURING 17 IN THE PROCESS.

12. NORTH OF PHNOM PENH, FANK'S SEVENTH DIVISION TEAMED UP WITH UNITS FROM LOVEK TO CONDUCT A SWEEP SOUTH OF OUDONG.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 PHNOM 17412 02 OF 02 310711Z

THE OPERATION ENCOUNTERED ONLY LIGHT ENEMY RESISTANCE AND REPORTED KILLING 15 COMMUNIST SOLDIERS. FANK CASUALTIES WERE LIGHT.

13. ON DECEMBER 29, A 160-TRUCK RICE CONVOY MOVED FROM BATTAMBANG ALONG ROUTE 5 TO KOMPONG CHHNANG WITHOUT INCIDENT.

14. A MEKONG CONVOY ARRIVED IN PHNOM PENH DURING THE WEEK TAKING THREE ATTACKS BY FIRE (ABF) EN ROUTE WHICH CAUSED SOME DAMAGE TO THE CRAFT BUT NO CASUALTIES. THIS CONVOY LEFT PHNOM PENH ON DECEMBER 30 AND CROSSED THE BORDER BACK INTO SOUTH VIETNAM WITHOUT INCIDENT. A SPECIAL RICE CONVOY ALSO ARRIVED WITHOUT INCIDENT (SEE ECONOMIC SECTION ABOVE). THERE WERE ALSO SEVERAL CONVOY ROUND TRIPS TO KOMPONG CHHNANG DURING THE WEEK, WITH KC ABFS CAUSING ONLY MINOR DAMAGE AND NO CASUALTIES. DEAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CABINET, MEMBERSHIP, POLITICAL SITUATION, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PHNOM17412
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750001-0011
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974122/aaaaabch.tel
Line Count: 341
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 7
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <30 DEC 2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KHMER REPORT -- DECEMBER 31, 1974 GENERAL
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, MOPS, ECON, CB, (LON NOL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005